

shall not pass unrecognized or unrequited, we shall not fail of success.

While the Commission of Synod and the Board alike recommend a personal canvass in each congregation, for the purpose of raising such a sum of money as will be required in order to keep faith with every Minister on the Synod's Roll, it is for the Kirk Sessions to determine what method will be most efficient in their several congregations. This only we ask, that the effort be made in every case, and that it be made at once. It is desirable that all contributions for this purpose should be sent before the 20th December next, to Mr. James Croil, Morrisburg, Ontario, the Secretary of the Board, *pro tempore*.

On behalf of the Temporalities' Board
THOMAS PATON.

Chairman.

MONTREAL, 15th December, 1867.



WITH the present number is completed the second decade of the *Presbyterian*.

On the first of January, 1848, the first number was issued, and on reviewing its history, it is matter of self-gratulation to the conductors that it has been able to maintain an existence, whilst so many periodicals, during the same period, have gone the way of all the earth. This is proof, then, that it has in some measure supplied a want felt in the sphere it has occupied. This belief is to them greater matter of complacency than the mere prolongation of its existence. The object for which it was commenced by the Committee has been kept steadily in view. We should rather say committees, for it is the most saddening reflection connected with the history of this paper, that whilst it survives, the most of those honoured names that were associated with the conducting of it in its early and middle days, are no more heard on earth, except with lips hushed in reverence. It is singularly remarkable and mournful how many of the members of successive committees have been called hence in the very prime of their life, and in the midst of their usefulness. But they express the sad submission in the words of the mourning poet, slightly altered:

"How know we what had need of them,
For they were strong as they were true."

The conductors are comforted with the belief that the periodical has done a good work for the Church. They have sought, and they think with success, to disseminate the sound and safe principles of the Church of Scotland with such modifications, of

course, without which it could never find a place in the circumstances of this country. And they think it has formed a tie to bind our congregations together, by promoting a Church feeling as opposed to Congregationalism. There is too great a tendency to congregationalism in this country—every minister and congregation being disposed, like the men of Israel in the time of the Judges, to do what is right in their own eyes; but this narrows a people's sympathies, and is not at all in keeping with the generous and catholic spirit of the early Church.

It is scarcely possible that in these twenty years the paper should have avoided offending and disappointing some of our ministers and people, however unintentionally; but the desire not to become the mouthpiece of a party or of extreme views, but of the sense of the Church at large, has, they believe, commended itself to the great mass of its readers. And what has been done in the past it is expected will be accomplished in still greater measure in the future, with the increased support confidently looked for with the growth and prosperity of the Church. The conductors will strive to reflect the views of the Church at large, being as sensitive to the general opinion as the needle is to the pole, and to this end they invite contributions to their columns from both ministers and people on subjects likely to interest and profit the members and adherents of our Church. Any well digested article, conceived in a right spirit and temperately expressed, will receive the best attention of the conductors of the "*Presbyterian*."

Five years ago a change was made in the outer form of the magazine, which seemed justified by the progress of the country and Church, and more recently improvements in the typography have been effected, but whilst these changes have made it more readable and more bindable, they have also materially added to the expense of getting it up. And they are sorry to say that in the face of all they have done to forward the interests of the Church, and to commend the "*Presbyterian*" to the acceptance of the people, the circulation is by no means what ought to be expected amongst the many thousands of our members and adherents; and the Committee make one further appeal to all who would wish the continuance of the publication to aid in its more extended circulation. The Committee have no personal interest in its continuance, and so do not make this request as a